

## 2007-2008 Healthy Hoosier School Award Questions and Answers

Information regarding distribution of banners, certificates  
& cash awards is forthcoming and will be posted at [www.doe.in.gov/food](http://www.doe.in.gov/food)

### **Q. Tell me some background information on the Healthy Hoosier School Award.**

#### **What is it? When did it start? Who sponsors it?**

- The Healthy Hoosier School Award recognizes Indiana schools with policies and educational programs in place promoting an environment that creates healthy students and healthy learners. The application requires that applicant-schools evaluate and assess their behavior in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, staff wellness, and numerous other fields.
- Launched in the 2004-05 school year, the Healthy Hoosier School Award is open to all schools in Indiana. In its first year, 24 schools applied for the award compared to 81 schools this year.
- It was developed by the Steering Committee of Indiana Action for Healthy Kids. This committee includes representation from school nurses, PE teachers, dietitians and health educators. Additional members represent staff from Clarian, Purdue Extension, INDOE, the Indiana Dairy and Nutrition Council and the Ball State University Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology. Indiana Action for Healthy Kids is a state affiliate for the national non-profit, Action for Healthy Kids [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org).
- Sponsors of the award include Indiana Action for Healthy Kids, the Indiana Dairy and Nutrition Council, Clarian Health and Indiana Department of Education.

### **Q. What are the application criteria and how is it scored?**

- Applications are submitted by a school building (not corporation). The application requires a team effort and administrative support is critical. The application form requires information generated by a group of school staff and administrators, community partners, and students. Judging is done through a rubric of point values with each question having answers worth specific point values. Questions fall into the following categories: Development of a Coordinated School Health Team; Implementing Wellness Policies; Health Personnel; Physical Education and Healthy Education; Nutrition; Staff/Faculty Wellness; and Tobacco. The application also requires essays, of which one must be a considered statement signed by the principal detailing "best practices" as well as planned health and wellness programming. This was the first year the application had to be submitted electronically which required a school staff member to go online to complete the application process.

### **Q. How is the award advertised?**

- The award is promoted through various channels including websites, list-serves, meeting exhibits, and word of mouth. This year the application was posted online the first of November and advertised via list-serves to physical education teachers, foodservice staff, school nurses, Coordinated School Health partners, wellness committee members and Indiana Action for Healthy Kids. In addition to being online, the application was promoted in the INDOE Superintendent's mail and through the Indiana Association of School Principals' website.

### **Q. If our school applied, is there a public summary of our results?**

- Currently individual school results are not available to the public. In the past, members of the INAFHK met individually with schools to review their results. Due to the large number of schools receiving awards, this is unlikely to happen. Instead, we are working to develop a tool that will provide schools with this information.

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**Q: I was thrilled to see our school won an award. Will we be getting a banner, certificate and/or money?**

- The Gold Level schools receive a banner. Silver and Bronze Level schools receive certificates. This year each Gold Level school will receive \$200. There was a \$250 drawing for schools who submitted applications by February 1, so one school will receive \$250. Additional cash prizes include \$500 for the high point winner in the Elementary School category and \$500 for the high point winner in the Jr/High School category.

**Q: I would love to know what the other schools have done. Are their stories posted to a website somewhere for others to read?**

- Not at this time. We expect to post success stories on the Indiana Action for Healthy Kids website in the near future.

**Q: What impact has this award had on schools who have received past awards?**

- This award rewards concrete steps toward creating healthier school environments, and encourages other schools to develop similar policies. Interestingly, the impact of the Healthy Hoosier School Award is being seen in ways not even envisioned by its Indiana Team members. The Evansville school district leveraged the granting of a Healthy Hoosier School Award to apply for, and successfully receive, a multimillion-dollar U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free School grant. The federal granting agency viewed the Healthy Hoosier School Award as a key validation of this particular district's wellness efforts, and cited it as a factor in their decision to make the grant. Another winning Indiana school saw the Healthy Hoosier School Award as a spur to hire a full-time wellness coordinator.
- Because the information required on the award application is so comprehensive, it serves as a valuable assessment tool to help schools, and districts, decide where to make modifications and improvements in their wellness policies.

**Q: I would like to apply next year. How do I learn more about the Healthy Hoosier School Award and when the application is due?**

- Information about how to apply for future awards will be available in the fall of 2008. At that time, check the Indiana Action for Healthy Kids (IAFHK) website <http://indianaactionforhealthykids.org/> and the Indiana Department of Education, School and Community Nutrition web page [www.doe.in.gov/food](http://www.doe.in.gov/food) for more information.

**Q: Can I see the 2007-08 application?**

- The application is available as a PDF at [http://www.doe.in.gov/food/healthy\\_hoosier.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/food/healthy_hoosier.html).